

Decemb. 21. 1716.

PROPOSALS

For PRINTING by

SUBSCRIPTION

The Second VOLUME of the

HISTORY

OF THE

SARACENS.

IN WHICH

The Account of the SUCCESSORS
of *MAHOMET* is continued
for the space of Fifty Years, be-
ginning at the Year of our Lord
DCLV.

By *SIMON OCKLEY*, B. D.

Professour of *Arabick* in the University of
Cambridge, and Chaplain to the Right
Honourable *Robert* Earl of *Oxford* and
Earl *Mortimer*.

The PROPOSALS.

THE Number of Sheets in this Volume, printed in the same Letter with this Proposal, will amount to about thirty: The whole is proposed at 2 *d.* per Sheet; 2 *s.* 6 *d.* to be paid in hand; the remainder upon the delivery of the Book in Quires.

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Advertisement.

THERE being so great a space of Time, in which, what we in these Parts of the World call Learning, was entirely possessed by those who go under the Name of *Arabians*, and from whom *Europe* did again receive even those Authors which were written in *Greek*; it will not, we hope, be unacceptable to the World, to have that Period of near eight hundred Years, which at present is so dark to us, supplied. At least we may see the State of Learning, as it is delivered down to us in that Tongue; and also an Account of their Polity, Wars, and other remarkable Accidents.

The *Arabians* being a Nation who with much Reason pride themselves to

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have

have made the least Alteration in their Manners, Government and other Customs; we promise our selves that the representing them as they are, will give great Light to those that shall read the Books wrote in those Countries; which do not only furnish Materials proper to entertain mere Curiosity, but such as the *Divine*, the *Physician*, the *Mathematician*, the *Philologer*, the *Poet*, the *Historian*, *Geographer* and *Chronologer*, may find his Account in.

The *Divine* hath no such a Comment upon the *Old Testament*, except the *New*, as the present standing Customs of the *Arabians* and other Oriental Nations. The most learned *Physicians* bewail the Loss of that Learning, and heartily wish its Restoration; which if it did not add to their present Practice, would at least give great Light to the History of their Profession. Of what use it is to the *Mathematicians*, our incomparable *Professor*
Dr. Ed-

Dr. *Edmund Halley* hath, with a peculiar Sagacity, natural to himself, incredible to others, given a sufficient Demonstration, in restoring *Apollonius Pergæus*, (lost in the Greek) out of that Language. And we have reason to believe, that there are many other Pieces relating to that noble and useful Science that remain yet untranslated.

Nor would the *Philologers* fail of their Account; because a multitude of Passages transcribed from later Copies of worse *Character*, might have their true Reading restored from those translated by the *Arabians* in the latter end of the seventh Century; *at which time the Saracen Caliphs procured the best Copies of the Greek Books from the Emperors of Constantinople*, of which there is still preserved a great Magazine in the famous Libraries yet remaining in those Countries.

There the *Poet* will find incredible Quickness of Invention, Plenty of

Materials, and various Turns of Fancy; which, drawn from Nature, tho' different from our Manner, will still assist him with an inexhaustible Fund of something new; which, judiciously managed, will never fail of affording Entertainment to all Readers of true Taste.

The *Historian*, *Geographer* and *Chronologer*, are quite imperfect in their Professions without this Knowledge: The *Saracens* have had so great a Share for so many Centuries in *Asia*, *Africa* and *Europe*, that without an acquaintance with their Historians, we not only lose an Opportunity of being informed concerning the Genius and Actions of an unexampled Nation; but of retrieving a great many Monuments of the most valuable antient Literature. What sort of an *Historian* must he be, that is ignorant of the vast Revolutions that have happened in the greatest Empires and Kingdoms upon the face of
the

the Earth, for so many hundreds of Years? What a *Geographer*, that is ignorant of the Situation and Condition of the most flourishing Cities and Countries in the Universe? And what a *Chronologer*, that is not able by the assistance of the *Lunar Year* in use among the *Persians* and *Arabians*, to adjust the Time of the most considerable Transactions among them.

The Reverend and Learned Dr. *Prideaux* having obliged the World with the Life of *Mahomet*; it hath been received with so much just Acceptation, and discovered so many Mistakes in common Opinions, that we find it hath stirred up an ardent Desire in many curious Persons to have an Account continued of the Successors of *Mahomet*; some Persons of great Worth, to whom we intend to make our particular Acknowledgments in the Introduction to this second Volume, have pressed us to this Work, as necessary to shew the Pro-

gress of that Enthusiastick Spirit. What hath been done in the first Volume hath met with such Approbation from Persons of distinguished Taste, that we were resolved not to omit the first Opportunity of proceeding to a second.

In the first, we have given an Account of the wonderful Success of the *Saracens* in the speedy Conquest of *Syria*, *Persia* and *Ægypt*. The Particulars of the Sieges of *Damascus*, *Alexandria*, *Aleppo*, *Antioch*, *Jerusalem*, and several other Places of great Importance, as delivered by their own Authors. The Foundation of the Destruction of the *Grecian* Empire, and the Establishment of that of the *Saracens*, under the Government of *Abubecr*, *Omar* and *Othman*, the immediate Successors of *Mahomet*.

Which we have drawn with no small Labour, chiefly from the Oriental Manuscripts, repositied in the *Bodleian* Library at *Oxford*. And in order

order to complete this second Volume, we have had again recourse to that famous Library. From whence we have collected Materials for the Addition of fifty Years to our former History. So that though we have not yet arrived to the Conquest of *Spain*, nor the learned Age of the *Arabians*; yet we are very near the former, and not far from the beginning of the latter: Having brought the *Saracen* Empire to an established Settlement, and written the History (inclusive of the Life of *Mahomet*) of fourscore Years; in which the *Saracens* conquered very much more, than the *Romans* did in four hundred.

We have in this second Volume the History of *Ali*, *Hasan* and *Hosein*, reputed Saints among the *Persians*; and whose being deprived of the Succession, hath made such a Division between them and the other Sects; among which are those now called *Turks*, as is likely to remain so long
as

as the Profession of *Mahometanism* hath any Being upon the face of the Earth.

Our Searches into the Books written in the *Arabick* and *Persian* Languages, give us this Encouragement for farther Enquiry, of which the Reader, we hope, will reap the Advantage, that as they added to their Conquests, so their Historians improved in the Accounts they have written of them.

We have added a Collection of some of the Sentences of *Ali*; which, if our Judgment doth not fail us, is no absurd *Specimen* of the Wisdom of the *Eastern* Nations.

Decemb. 21.
1716.

SIMON OCKLEY.



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